

Bi-Weekly!

WEEKLY REPORT

ARIZONA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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For the week ending Friday, October 10, 2003

Weekly Report is published by the Arizona State Retirement System. During the Legislative Session, we provide a summary of legislation that pertains to the ASRS. Since the Legislature has adjourned, we will report on news and information related to the Retirement System. This report will be sent via email periodically until the Legislature begins a new session. We hope you find this report useful. If there are issues you'd like addressed, please let us know! Send an email to: davidc@asrs.state.az.us

***** Please distribute or make this report available to your employees. *****

ASRS News:

- The ASRS **Member Handbook**, your guide to a variety of information on retirement, has been updated and posted to our website! Ever wonder when you can retire with full pension benefits? What happens to your account if you leave your current employer? Who's eligible to be your beneficiary? Find out the answers to these and dozens of other common questions in the Member Handbook. You can access a copy at www.asrs.state.az.us. Please note that the bound copies of the Member Handbook are out of date and should not be distributed. We are in the process of printing the new edition.
- The ASRS is in the process of mailing all members their **Annual Statement**. Each year, members receive a personal statement that shows their years of service, annual contributions and projected retirement pension. Members are encouraged to review their statements and report any discrepancies – address changes, beneficiary changes, etc. – to our Member Services Division at any of the numbers listed below. Please note that statements reflect information for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003. Any changes made after that date will not be reflected on the statements being mailed.
- The Arizona State Retirement System annual **Open Enrollment** period, during which retirees may elect to make changes to their medical and/or dental plans, is underway and will continue through October 24.

Open Enrollment applies to any retired member of the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS), Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS), Elected Officials' Retirement Plan (EORP), Corrections Officer Retirement Plan (CORP), University Optional Retirement Plan (UORP), or any member who is receiving a long-term disability (LTD) benefit from the ASRS program, and who is not enrolled in health benefits through his or her former employer. Members or any eligible dependents who have not taken the opportunity to enroll previously in one of the group medical or dental plans also will be able to enroll during this period.

A special phone number for open enrollment has also been established. In Phoenix, call 602-240-5350, in Tucson, call 520-239-3100 extension 5350, or from outside Phoenix and Tucson call 800-621-3778 extension 5350.

Please note that anyone making new elections or adding or deleting dependents from health insurance coverage, enrollment forms must be received by the ASRS or be postmarked no later than midnight, Friday, October 24, 2003.

- Speaking of **health insurance**, please note that the ASRS does not offer a non-Medicare health insurance plan to Medicare-eligible retirees. Once a person becomes Medicare eligible and obtains both Parts A & B they must apply for either the Medicare+Choice HMO plan or the Senior Supplement Plan, or they will lose their health

insurance coverage. If the member is Medicare eligible but only has Part A, they must apply for Part B as soon as possible and then submit the proper documents as soon as they receive Part B.

- Our Member Services Division offers a series of **Group Meetings and Seminars** designed for members thinking about retirement within the next year to five years. Group Meetings are designed for those planning to retire within a year, while Seminars are designed for those thinking about retiring within the next five years. Valuable planning information is provided at both. Please be sure to let your employees know that if they're contemplating retirement, these meetings are available! A complete list is posted in the Calendar section of our website.
- Our Employer Relations Division recently concluded its series of annual **Employer Conferences**. Thank you to all who attended. They were a great success! A total of 644 people attended one of 24 sessions held throughout the state. We will be reviewing your suggestions as we plan next year's conferences!
- Did you know . . . The ASRS **Call Center** received 3,025 calls the week of September 22-26! Our Call Abandonment Rate was just 2.6% ! The ASRS is committed to providing courteous, accurate and prompt service to all our members!

Upcoming Board & Committee Meetings

- Oct. 17, 8:30 a.m. – ASRS Board – ASRS Phoenix Office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 10th floor board room.
- Oct. 29, 10 a.m. – ASRS Board Committee on Rules – ASRS Phoenix Office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 14th floor conference room.

* All Board & Committee meetings are open to the public and your attendance is encouraged. Schedules, agendas and minutes of our meetings are posted on our website and are available at our Phoenix and Tucson offices.

clip & Save!

ARIZONA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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